US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

News Release

Coastal Restoration Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2587
Bob Bosenberg, 504-862-2522
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LCA meetings to identify near term project implementation

Focus on critical Louisiana coastal actions for next 10 years or so

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host public scoping meetings to solicit comments on a near-term ecosystem restoration (LCA Near-Term) plan now being prepared for coastal Louisiana. This latest round of meetings will solicit public comments on the questions below. Comments received from the upcoming meetings will be incorporated into a draft report due by June 4, 2004.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Open House: 5 p.m
Formal presentation: 6 p.m.

LOCATIONS:

Monday, April 19 – Houma Municipal Auditorium, 800 Verret Street
Tuesday, April 20 – Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Hwy 23
Wednesday, April 21 – Morgan City Auditorium, 728 Myrtle Street
Thursday, April 22 – Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Drive
Friday, April 23 – Lafayette, USGS Nat'l Wetlands Research Ctr, 700 Cajundome Blvd.

Comments from the public on the following two questions and nine criteria will be compiled, analyzed, and used in the plan formulation process to determine which projects to incorporate in the LCA Near-Term Plan:

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Add 1 – LCA Scoping Meetings

- **Question #1: What are the critical natural and human ecological needs that should be addressed in the PEIS?** For example, critical natural and human ecological needs may include: deltaic processes, sustainability, hurricane and flood protection, protection of human infrastructure, and others.

- **Question #2: What are the significant resources that should be considered in the PEIS for the LCA Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan?** For example, significant resources may include: gulf hypoxia, barrier islands, offshore sand resources, water quality, and others.

The Corps will provide information and requests comments on the following nine LCA Near-Term Plan Identification Criteria:

1. Prevents future land loss where predicted to occur.
2. Sustainability—restores or mimics fundamentally impaired deltaic process.
3. Sustainability—restores endangered or critical ecological structure.
4. Engineering and design complete and construction started within 10 years.
5. Protects vital local, regional, and national community and socioeconomic resources.
6. Public acceptability based on scoping and public meeting comments.
7. Based upon sufficient scientific and engineering understanding of processes.
8. Capitalizes on existing structure, resources, etc.
9. Construction does not preclude other options and/or projects.

Beginning in November 2001, the Corps and the State of Louisiana began a cooperative interagency study effort to develop a comprehensive plan to restore Louisiana's coastal ecosystem. The purpose of this study was to develop a comprehensive plan that would form a blueprint for the construction of projects for ecosystem restoration of the state's coastal wetlands.

During this study effort, the general public, stakeholder interest groups, and technical experts from academia and federal agencies were engaged in the scoping, formulation and definition of the final array of restoration alternatives. The study efforts resulted in completion of the draft Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration study report, dated October 2003. The report presents a final array of seven coastwide alternatives for restoring Louisiana's coastal wetlands. In February 2004, the Corps was directed to refocus the larger comprehensive ecosystem restoration plan into the near-term plan to address the urgent needs of the coast.

All information relative to the LCA Near-Term Plan, the scoping process, including the Scoping Report (a summary of all comments received), will be available on the Louisiana Coastal Area Web sites at www.lca.gov, www.mvn.usace.army.mil and www.coast2050.gov.

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